

Remarks:

In Reply to the Official Action of October 27, 2003, applicants hereby provisionally elect the claims of Group I, without traverse. In view of this provisional election, applicants have restated the claims of the present application to indicate that claims 19 and 20 are withdrawn. Applicants have added new claim 21, which is dependent from claim 8 and is believed to be properly grouped with the linking claims. Applicants have amended claims 9 and 10 to correct an obvious typographical error.

In connection with the examination of the elected claims, the applicants invite the Examiner's attention to the enclosed list of additional prior art patents all of which have issued since the filing of applicants' prior disclosure. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of each piece of prior art listed is attached hereto. Since all of the listed prior art documents are in the English language, or translations are provided, no explanation of their relevance to the claimed invention is believed necessary. The claimed invention is believed to be patentable over all of the art of record.

Respectfully submitted,



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AJR/cbw

Attachments: Form PTO/SB/08A
Copy of References

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